

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 166537 TOSEC 180030

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TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 166537 TOSEC 180030

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CHEROKEE FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

FOL TEL SENT ACTION SECSTATE FROM JIDDA DTD 05 JUL 1976 QTE

S E C R E T JIDDA 4709

NODIS/CHEROKEE

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SA, US, XF

SUBJECT: PRINCE FAHD'S VIEWS ON ARAB/ISRAELI SETTLEMENT

1. PRIOR TO PROVIDING PRINCE FAHD WITH YOUR VIEWS ON PROBLEMS OF MOVING TOWARD GENERAL SETTLEMENT OF ISRAELI-ARAB ISSUES AS THEY EMERGED IN PARIS MEETING, I BELIEVED HE WAS OF OPINION THAT SUCH AN EFFORT SHOULD NOT BE ATTEMPTED UNTIL AFTER ELECTIONS. HE CORRECTED MY IMPRESSION, SAYING THAT HE AGREED THAT NOTHING WOULD BE PRACTICAL UNTIL REPUBLICANS NOMINATE THEIR CANDIDATE FOR THE PRESIDENCY, BUT HE HOLDS THAT USG CAN AND SHOULD IMMEDIATELY AFTER THAT EVENT MOUNT AN EFFORT TO NEGOTIATE A GENERAL SETTLEMENT AND SHOULD PROVIDE ITS OWN VIEWS AS TO WHAT THAT MIGHT INCLUDE. FAHD BELIEVES THAT ALL PRINCIPAL FACTORS, MEANING ISRAELI, ARAB, U.S. AND INTERNATIONAL

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 166537 TOSEC 180030

OPINION ARE READY FOR SUCH AN EFFORT AND THAT TO AWAIT THE

OUTCOME OF THE U.S. ELECTIONS WOULD DIMINISH RATHER THAN
ENHANCE THE PROSPECTS FOR SUCCESS.

2. HE ADDS THAT THE AMERICAN PUBLIC, WHICH IS THE MOST
IMPORTANT ELEMENT IN THE EQUATION, IS NOW SUFFICIENTLY EDUCATED
ABOUT ARAB-ISRAELI ISSUES, AND IS AWARE THAT LOGIC AND JUSTICE
ARE NOT ALL ON ONE SIDE. AMERICANS ARE AWARE THAT OUR
RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE EXISTENCE AND SECURITY OF THE STATE OF
ISRAEL IS CLEAR AND THAT WE CANNOT DIVEST OURSELVES OF THAT
RESPONSIBILITY. AT SAME TIME HE BELIEVES THE AMERICAN PUBLIC
IS MORE THAN TIRED OF POLITICAL ISOLATION, THE EXPENSE AND THE
MANEUVERING WHICH HAVE KEPT THE PROBLEM IN THE FOREFRONT OF
AMERICAN DOMESTIC POLITICS FOR SO LONG.

3. FAHD SAID THESE THINGS TO ME AND MORE. HIS HOPE THAT
PRESIDENT FORD'S CAMPAIGN WOULD BE SUCCESSFUL WAS CLEARLY
EXPRESSED AND, ONCE THE NOMINATING PROCESS ENDS, HE SEES THE
INTERIM BETWEEN IT AND ELECTION DAY AS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR
ACTION RATHER THAN STAGNATION. AMERICANS ADMIRE THE PRESIDENT'S
POLITICAL COURAGE, HE DECLARED, AND WOULD ADMIRE HIM MORE FOR
ACTION DESIGNED TO SETTLE THE PROBLEM. HE WOULD NOT LISTEN TO
MY COMMENT THAN AN ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE CHARACTER HE HAD IN
MIND MIGHT EMBITTER THE CAMPAIGN. THE CAMPAIGN HAD ALREADY
DEMONSTRATED THAT ZIONIST SUPPORT COULD NOT ACHIEVE A GREAT DEAL
FOR THOSE CANDIDATES WHO HAD IT, HE DECLARED.

4. AS FOR LEBANON, HE APPRECIATED HEARING AGAIN THAT WE DO
NOT FAVOR PARTITION. HE ADDED THAT WOULD NOT EVEN BE IN THE
INTEREST OF THE IERAEIS, THOUGH THEY MIGHT THINK IT IS. HE
OBVIOUSLY FEARS THE DISINTEGRATING AND GENERALLY DANGEROUS EFFECT
OF THE PLO PRESENCE IN LEBANON AND SAID THAT RECENT EVENTS HAD
MADE THE NECESSITY OF GETTING THEM BACK INTO THEIR HOMELAND,
THE WEST BANK, EVEN CLEARER.

5. RETURNING TO THE SUBJECT OF A GENERAL SETTLEMENT OF THE ARAB-
ISRAELI PROBLEM, HE INSISTED THAT AN AMERICAN EFFORT TO ACHIEVE
"PEACE AND TRANQUILITY IN RETURN FOR ARAB TERRITORIES TAKEN OVER
BY ISRAEL IN 1967" WOULD EVOKE WIDESPREAD ARAB, ISLAMIC AND
INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT.

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PAGE 03 STATE 166537 TOSEC 180030

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